



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCILMAN RICK MARIANO AND  
FIVE OTHERS INDICTED**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of a 26-count indictment<sup>1</sup> charging Richard Mariano, Philip Chartock, Louis Chartock, Joseph Pellecchia, and Vincent DiPentino with conspiracy to commit honest services fraud, honest services mail and wire fraud, and money laundering. The indictment also charges Mariano and Reinaldo Pastrana with bribery and Mariano with filing a false income tax return in 2002. Joining Meehan at today's press conference were F.B.I. Special Agent-in-Charge Jack Eckenrode, and Peter S. Alvarado, Special Agent-in-Charge of the I.R.S. Criminal Investigation Division.

Defendant Mariano was an elected member of Philadelphia City Council representing the seventh councilmatic district. He was first elected to this position in November 1995 and was reelected in November 1999 and November 2003. Mariano currently serves as chair of the City Council Committee on Licenses and Inspections, which is responsible for all matters relating to licenses and inspections, building safety and sanitation, and building, housing, and electrical codes and standards.

The City of Philadelphia and its citizens have a right to the honest services of their public officials in the operation of city government. According to the indictment, while serving as an elected member of City Council, Mariano was unlawfully influenced by bribes, gifts, and other benefits he received from defendants Philip and Louis Chartock, Pellecchia, DiPentino, Pastrana, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, all of which defendant Mariano failed to disclose.

For example, Philip Chartock, president of Erie Steel, Ltd. in Philadelphia, repeatedly sought Mariano's assistance with city agencies and obtained Mariano's sponsorship of and favorable vote on legislation offering tax relief to Erie Steel through the Keystone Opportunity Zone ("KOZ") program. In 2002, Chartock caused Erie Steel to pay more than \$23,000 of Mariano's personal credit card debt which Mariano failed to disclose.

"When Rick Mariano was elected, he became indebted to the people of Philadelphia. He owed them honesty and they didn't get it," said Meehan. "As this indictment alleges, not only did the councilman need help with paying his credit card debt, but he needed to be reminded of the debt he owed to the citizens of Philadelphia."

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<sup>1</sup>An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Also according to the indictment, defendant Joseph Pellecchia repeatedly sought defendant Mariano's assistance with city agencies and with the School District of Philadelphia, including Mariano's help in obtaining a \$225,000 consulting contract with the School District. Pellecchia assisted Erie Steel, Ltd. and Mariano in disguising the nature and source of a \$6,672 payment towards Mariano's personal credit card debt.

In another instance, defendant Louis Chartock offered a Mariano staffer cash and a trip to Florida in exchange for certifications from the Department of Licenses and Inspections. When the staffer refused, Chartock called Mariano to complain. Mariano later berated the staffer for not helping Chartock.

"A tongue-lashing by the boss was this staffer's reward for honesty," said Meehan.

Other allegations include:

- Defendants Louis and Philip Chartock attempting to conceal the payments made by Erie Steel, Ltd. on behalf of Mariano by falsely claiming that such payments were loans and had been repaid.
- Defendant DiPentino repeatedly sought Mariano's assistance with city agencies, including Mariano's assistance in obtaining properties from the city through the city's Vacant Property Review Committee. DiPentino assisted Erie Steel, Ltd. and Mariano in disguising the nature and source of a \$10,900 payment toward Mariano's personal credit card debt.
- Defendant Pastrana, a real estate developer, paid more than \$5,400 for membership fees at the Sporting Club at the Bellevue on behalf of defendant Mariano in exchange for Mariano's sponsorship of and favorable vote on legislation through which PASTRANA acquired a city-owned property located at American and Somerset Streets for \$100,000.

Mariano faces a maximum sentence of 398 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, \$6,250,000 fine, and a \$2,300 special assessment. Philip Chartock faces a maximum sentence of 205 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, \$3,250,000 fine, and a \$1,100 special assessment. Louis Chartock faces a maximum sentence of 225 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, \$3,250,000 fine and a \$1,300 special assessment. Pellecchia and DiPentino face maximum sentences of 45 years imprisonment, a 3 year period of supervised release, \$1,000,000 fine and a \$300 special assessment. Pastrana faces a maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment, a 3 year period of supervised release, \$750,000 fine, and a \$300 special assessment.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	YEAR OF BIRTH
RICHARD MARIANO	4300 block of Lawndale Street, Philadelphia, PA	1955
PHILIP CHARTOCK	600 Block of Edison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA	1962
LOUIS CHARTOCK	100 block of S. 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Longport, NJ and Fort Pierce, FL	1932
JOSEPH PELLECCIA	Sewell, NJ	1947
VINCENT DIPENTINO	600 block of S. Front Street Philadelphia, PA	1957
REINALDO PASTRANA	1100 block of Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA	1959

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorneys Michael A. Schwartz and Kenya S. Mann.

*COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae/>*

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